

# PARACHUTIST

JULY - OCTOBER, 1958

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

THE BATON PASS — An American Breakthrough



# PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST

### PRIZES

### PRIZES

### PRIZES

**First Prize    NEW SPORT PARACHUTE**  
**Second Prize ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS**  
**Third Prize    FIFTY DOLLARS**

**plus**

**47 additional prizes of a parachutist logbook**

All prizes will be duplicated in *separate military and civilian contests* because recruiting for PCA is easier on military bases.

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### RULES

**General.** Each contestant must sign his name as sponsor on membership application form for each new member recruited. Contestant will receive one point for each new member enrolled in PCA. New members must meet PCA standards as stated in Article 1 of Constitution. New active and sustaining memberships will each score one point. Military contestants are PCA members serving full time in Armed Forces for any part of contest.

**Dates.** Contest begins November 1, 1958, and ends May 1, 1959. All entries must be postmarked before May 1, 1959, to receive credit.

**Fees.** Application fees for new members must be received by certified check or money order for immediate credit to sponsor. Personal checks will delay credit to sponsor until checks have cleared through banks.

**Eligibility.** Any PCA member in good standing during contest is eligible to enter contest except national officers, members of the board of directors and staff members. Safety officers will not be considered national officers.

**Winners.** Contestants having the highest point total on May 1, 1959, will be declared winners. In case of ties among the first three places, contestants will be notified by telegram and will be given an additional week in order to break the tie. NOTE: At least 30 new members must be recruited by a contestant in order to qualify for the first prize sport parachute.

**Judges.** The contest will be judged by the national officer of the PCA and will be monitored by the accounting firm of the PCA. All decisions of the judges will be final. Winners names will be given in PARACHUTIST.

This contest is subject to local, state and federal regulations.

All membership entries should be sent to the PCA, Box 212, Mount Kisco, N. Y.



## PCA Calls For Stiffer Licenses

In a move to stiffen FAI licenses, the Parachute Club of America this October proposed new requirements to the international aeronautics body.

"The PCA believes that the qualifications for the present FAI licenses are unrealistic in terms of the present development of parachuting," says the national association in the preface to its proposed changes.

"Therefore, the PCA suggests that the requirements for all licenses, other than the Class A license, be made more difficult. In determining these requirements, the PCA has considered the future development of parachuting."

The proposed requirements are as follows:

**Class A License:** Five jumps only, not valid for FAI competition.

**Class B License:** 25 free falls, including at least 15 stable delays of 10 seconds, five stable delays of 20 seconds and one stable delay of 30 seconds. Parachutist must land within 50 meters of the center of a target on at least five jumps with at least a 15-second delay.

**Class C License:** 75 free falls, including at least 65 stable delays of 10 seconds, 30 stable delays of 20 seconds, and 10 stable delays of 45 seconds. Parachutist must have landed within 30 meters of the center of a target on at least 15 delays of 20 seconds or more. Parachutist must be able to complete a figure "8" in 7 seconds.

**Class D License:** 200 free falls, including at least 100 stable delays of 20 seconds, 50 delays of 30 seconds, 20 delays of 45 seconds, and 10 delays of 60 seconds. Parachutist must be able to complete a figure "8" in 7 seconds; controlled forward and backward loops, controlled right and left barrel rolls must also have been performed. Parachutist must have been a participant in one major competition. Parachutist must have landed within 20 meters of the center of a target on at least 20 jumps involving at least a 30-second delay.

**Want to win a sport parachute?  
See contest on facing page.**

## EVENT CHANGES PROPOSED FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The Parachute Club of America announced in October that it has drawn up proposals for the Fifth World Parachuting Championship which would radically alter the international contest. These proposals will be submitted in December at a conference which will decide on events for the 1960 meet. The aim of the proposals is "to reduce the importance of luck, and to make the championship more interesting for both participants and spectators without increasing the cost of holding the contest."

The major changes which the PCA proposes in the make-up from the Fourth World Championship are a reduction in team size from five to four members and an increase in the number of jumps in each event.

The PCA also has proposed that a baton-pass be included in the competition. It gives as its reasons for this inclusion: "The intrinsic interest of the event and as a method of speeding and broadening the development of parachuting."

The PCA proposals are as follows:

**Proposal 1:** National teams to be composed of four men and three women.

**Proposal 2:** Event number one. Individual precision landing from 2000 meters, with a 23 to 30-second delay. Scoring: One point per meter with a maximum of 150 points. No points for style. The best three jumps out of four to count. Possible points: 450.

**Proposal 3:** Event number two. Group jump from 2000 meters with a 25 to 33-second delay. Scoring: precision only. One point per meter with a maximum of 150 points. Both team and individuals to count the best two out of three jumps. Possible points: 300.

**Proposal 4:** Event number three. Same as Event 3 in Fourth World Championship with the sex modifications:

A. All contestants must wear the same color coveralls, boots and helmets.

B. Contestants from at least four countries in each plane load; jump order to be determined by lot after takeoff.

C. Signals for turns and sequences of turns to remain unchanged, but the relation between the signal and the sequence to be determined by lot before each sequence of jumps.

fore each sequence of jumps.

D. Complete battery of six turns, plus one backward loop must be executed.

E. Number of jumps: three.

F. Scoring: Same as the Fourth World Championship: 150 points for a straight stable fall, 150 points possible for completing required maneuvers, with bonus points for speed. Best two jumps to count. Possible points: 600.

**Proposal 5:** Event number four. Team baton-pass from 3,000 meters. Two relay teams of two men each attempt to pass a baton. One second separation required when leaving the aircraft; no pass to be made before the eighth second of free fall. Maximum delay: 53 seconds with parachute opening after 53rd second to disqualify the relay team. Scoring: 100 points for one pass completed; 250 points for two passes completed. Scores to count on national team totals only.

## Frank Stevens Dies; Early Parachutist

Frank Stevens, 85, probably the first person to make a parachute jump over Manhattan, died this September at Bayside, Queens N. Y. He lived in Flushing, Queens.

The pioneer parachutist was the brother of A. Leo Stevens, who died in 1948 and in whose memory a periodic trophy for parachute development is awarded. The brothers were known as the "Boy Wonders of the Air" in the 1890's. They made many parachute jumps from balloons in the United States.

In July, 1893, Mr. Stevens jumped from a balloon over Manhattan as a feature of a mail carriers' picnic in a city park.



# Breaking The Baton Barrier

A recent feat of the French, the baton pass in free fall was first mastered by Americans this summer. Two Seattle Skydivers can claim North American honors. In the U.S., the record goes to two Georgia Tech students, one of whom tells the story below.

by CHARLES HILLARD as told to T. G. Gatsby

Actually it was a technicality that gave Steve Snyder and myself the record for the first successful baton pass (during free fall) in the United States. At the U.S. team tryouts in Vancouver this June, Lyle Hoffman and Jim Pearson, both members of the Seattle Skydivers, completed a baton pass nearly a month before we did. They jumped from 12,500 feet and made the pass in the first 30 seconds of a 60-second delay. But they were in Canada. On the books, we can claim the first in the United States.

It was at Vancouver that we first seriously considered the idea. We knew the French had been making baton passes for several years — I have even heard of one case where two Frenchmen passed a baton back and forth six times in one fall — but until the tryouts, neither Steve nor I had done more than individual free falls. The business of controlling your fall relative to someone else falling along with you was completely new. We tried it for the first time up there on our first 60-second delays.

I was really shook up by this initial experience of watching someone else in the sky. As far as I'm concerned, this is the real sport in sky diving, maneuvering with another person.

When the tryouts were over, Steve and I agreed to meet at Fort Bragg where the team was going to practice for the world championship. On my way across country, I stopped at Jamestown (N.Y.) and made three baton pass attempts with Frank Falcjczyk of the Jamestown club. We jumped from a Tripacer, from 8,000 to 13,000 feet. On the third jump, we got within five inches. I tried lunging through those extra inches and turned over on my back. It was so close we were both about crying when we hit the ground.

At Fort Bragg, Steve and I made three attempts before we were successful. Fortunately, Steve had tried a few baton passes with Bob McDonnell of Jamestown who was down at Bragg before I got there. So we both had some idea of what we were doing. Our first attempt was from 8,500 feet. That gave us about 40 seconds. We got with-

in about ten feet of each other, but we both tried to rush through those few remaining feet and messed it up.

That was one of the main lessons I learned in the process. Don't hurry. Get yourselves lined up on the same level and then work your way in gradually.

On the second jump, we made it as close as I did with Falcjczyk. Steve lunged to pass the stick and the same thing happened to him that did to me. He fell over on his back. The third attempt was all screwed up. I had a bad exit and we didn't get within 100 feet of each other.

We made the first successful baton pass in the U.S. on July 16th, over



Hillard (left) and Snyder

Holland Drop Zone at Fort Bragg. We did it on a team run from an Air Force C-123 at 8,500 feet. Our "baton" was a plain 15-inch stick wrapped with a T-shirt held on with rubber bands. We'd learned a lot of tricks by then. Even a slight movement of the hands can alter your course, and you can turn in a full delta position by just shifting your shoulders. This was an important discovery because it meant we didn't have to slow down by going into the spread for turns.

I jumped first carrying the baton. Steve followed me within a second. I held a full spread to keep my descent as slow as possible. Steve falls faster than I do normally anyway, so he caught up to me in about ten seconds.

At about 15 seconds, we made the first pass attempt. But our lateral distance was too much. Steve kept falling more or less straight down. I continued my glide over him and turned to try another pass. But we were still too far apart. By this time we had about 15 seconds left before we had to pull. (I got so absorbed in the baton pass and keeping an eye on Steve that I almost forgot to keep track of time and altitude.)

On the third attempt, we came in head on. We were about ten feet apart when we hit the same level. We'd learned our lesson about hurrying and worked our way together gradually. I had the baton in my right hand and shoved it toward the top of Steve's chest pack as our helmets practically touched. He grabbed it with both hands. I had two seconds to appreciate that we had finally made it before I realized it was time to pull the rip cord.

Two days later, on a 9,000 foot jump from an L-20 "Beaver," we made the second baton pass in the United States and one which probably holds the record for the smallest baton ever used. Somewhere we'd lost the T-shirt one and picked up a stick about 5½ inches long just before takeoff. We made this pass after one try. Steve gave it to me as I crossed about a foot above him. The stick was barely long enough for both of us to hold at the same time, but somehow I held on as Steve shoved it in my hand.

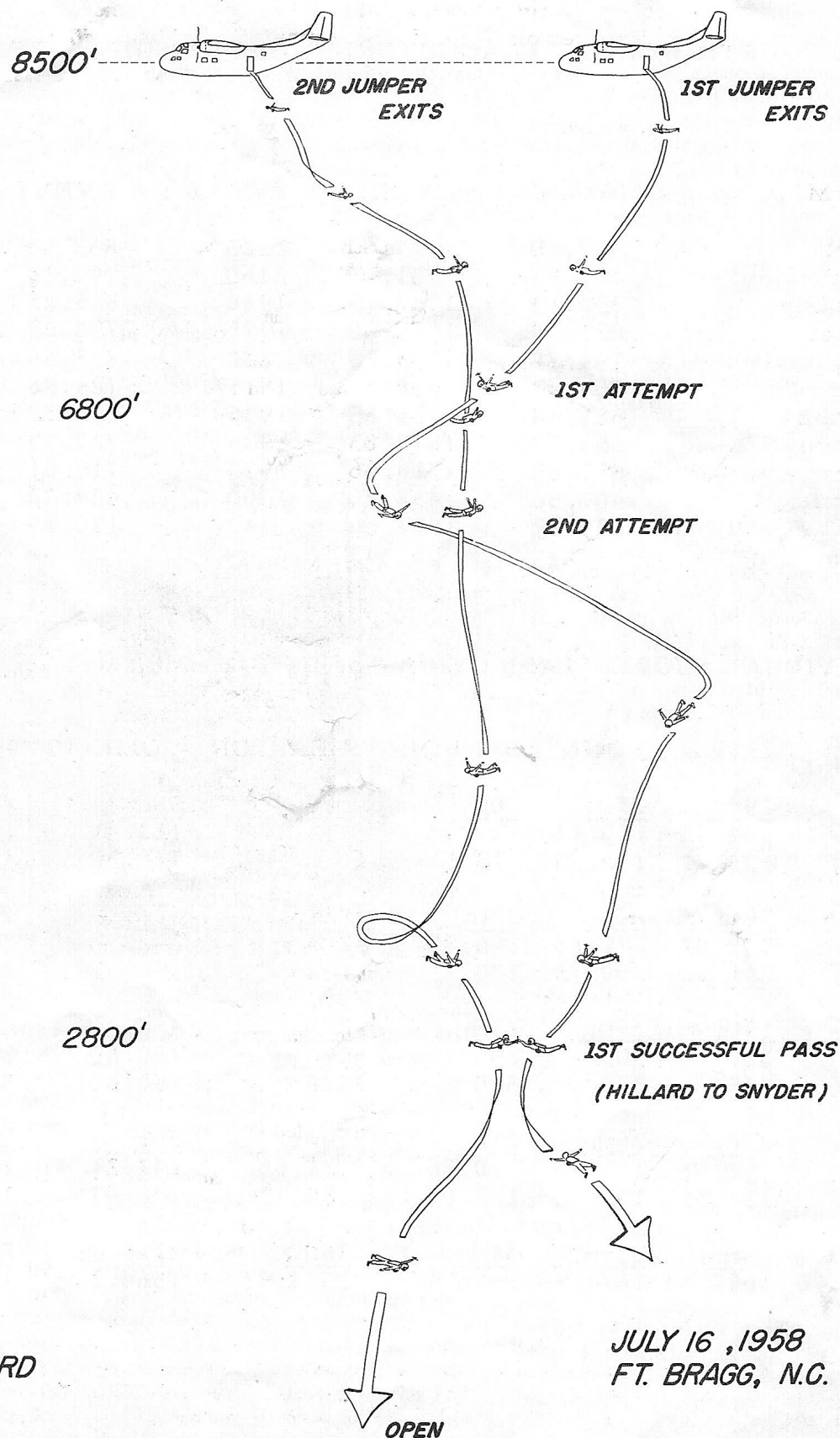
Two days after our second pass, Lew Sanborn and Jim Pearson, both team members, successfully completed a pass. So we weren't any too soon in being first.

As far as I'm concerned, baton passing is more than a stunt. I learned more about control and aerodynamics of the body in trying for that pass than I did in 100 previous free falls. Working together like we had to, you can see the effect of every slight movement.

I think it was just luck and, as I say, a technicality that gave Steve and I credit for the first baton pass in the U.S. It probably won't be long now before it's old stuff in American sport parachuting.



*FIRST  
SUCCESSFUL  
BATON PASS IN UNITED STATES*



*STEVE SNYDER  
CHARLES HILLARD*

*JULY 16, 1958  
FT. BRAGG, N.C.*



# THE FOURTH WORLD PARACHUTING CHAMPIONSHIP--OFFICIAL SCORES

TEAM	EVENT 1	EVENT 2	EVENT 3	EVENT 4	TOTAL
USSR	849.59	1777.54	2125	835.19	5587.32
Czechoslovakia	793.83	1731.57	2160	797.19	5482.59
Bulgaria	850.13	1753.15	1980	825.25	5408.53
Poland	821.58	1654.65	1975	794.62	5245.85
Yugoslavia	794.77	1765.28	1840	813.86	5213.91
USA	764.82	1658.59	1915	784.86	5122.47
Rumania	681.48	1713.55	1955	690.17	5040.20
France	658.77	1677.83	1935	727.33	4998.93
Hungary	852.80	1718.66	1570	719.01	4860.47
Austria	407.50	1458.50	1450	454.72	3770.72
Great Britain	139.97	1003.66	340	170.49	1661.62
Israel	--	567.43	--	--	567.43

## INDIVIDUAL SCORES (With first jumps first in each pair, and standings.)

Event	ISTEL	POND	SANBORN	PEARSON	TOMKINS	High Scorer
one	<u>19th</u> 144.34 123.71	<u>23rd</u> 120.21 135.53	<u>40th</u> 129.48 13.52	<u>46th</u> 114.11 --	<u>28th</u> 113.43 126.80	K. Vodenicarov, Bul. 143.07 148.03
two	<u>39th</u> 288.07 241.4	<u>24th</u> 277.65 280.72	<u>27th</u> 266.35 289.26	<u>33rd</u> 284.63 259.98	<u>35th</u> 292.28 250.60	P. Dedic, Yugo. 290.59 296.79
three	<u>15th</u> 330 335	<u>27th</u> 305 320	<u>27th</u> 295 330	<u>27th</u> 295 330	<u>45th</u> 150.00 150.00	G. Koubec, Czech. 370 365
four	<u>29th</u> 97.51 130.31	<u>26th</u> 100.03 135.72	<u>25th</u> 110.86 132.00	<u>19th</u> 121.66 139.13	<u>5th</u> 142.24 138.97	B. Dobrinic, Yugo. 141.15 145.49
Total	<u>20th</u> 1689.34	<u>23rd</u> 1674.86	<u>34th</u> 1566.47	<u>36th</u> 1544.51	<u>41st</u> 1364.32	P. Ostrovskij, USSR 1865.48



# WORLD PARACHUTING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1958 United States Parachuting Team plus two alternates and a pilot, and the president of the Parachute Club of America, arrived at the train station in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, on Thursday night, July 31st. Their arrival marked the end of a long trip — from the American east coast by way of Frankfurt and Vienna — and the beginning of the showdown on preparations which had been underway in one form or other for nearly two years.

Travelling 4,000 miles for the Fourth World Parachuting Championship, the U.S. team members hoped to better America's sixth place showing two summers ago in Moscow. They didn't. Though their relative standing was upped by the addition of two countries not represented in 1956, five teams

sian AN-2 biplane which was to serve as their sky diving platform for eight competitive jumps, two in each of four events. Lt. Ruby Lee Whitehead also got a chance to familiarize himself with the 14-place aircraft. Team pilot, he had worked with the U.S. jumpers during training at Fort Bragg, N. C. Of the team members and alternates, only Jacques Istel and Lew Sanborn were familiar with the AN-2. As members of the first American team to compete in the world championships, they had jumped from the same craft in Moscow.

The other team members could count this as their first international competition. They were: Nathan Pond, 25, of Woodbury, Conn.; Dick Tomkins, 26, a member of the Cambridge Parachute

tab was on the Czechs). The team bunked with the other participants at the Mlada Garda student dormitory, vacated for the summer, near Dvorniky Airport, site of the meet.

A crowd of 85,000 gathered for the opening ceremonies Sunday. That most of their spectating took place in a drenching downpour is some indication of the popularity of sport parachuting in most Eastern European countries. The rain let up long enough in the late afternoon to permit a 50-man mass jump by Czech paratroopers, all using square parachutes, and several 10,000 to 12,000-foot sky dives.

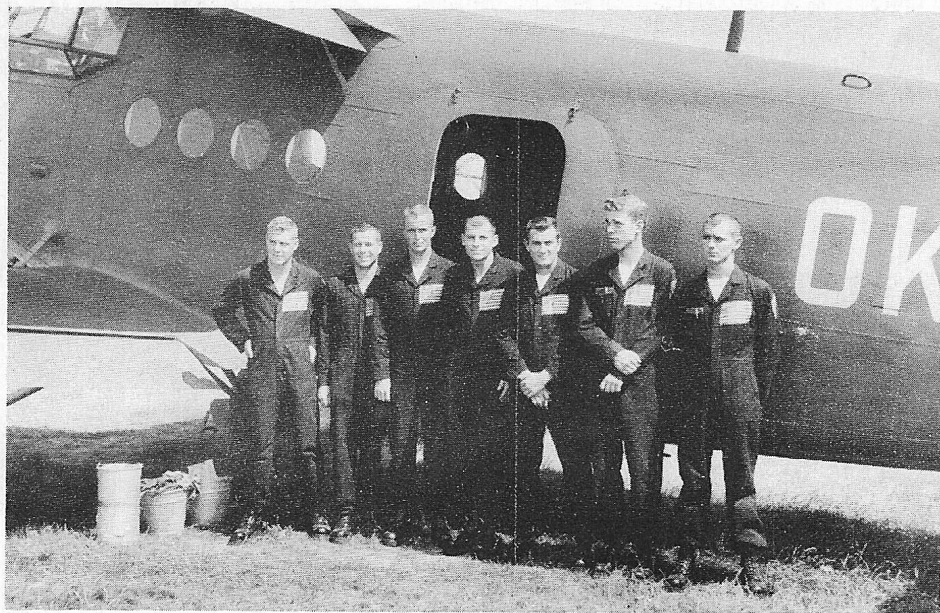
On Monday, August 2, the competition was under way. Twelve teams were on hand. Besides the host country and the U.S., there were Russia, Yugoslavia, France, Poland, Bulgaria, Israel, Great Britain, Rumania, Austria and Hungary. Individuals from Canada and Belgium also participated. Austria and Great Britain were newcomers, having been absent in Moscow. Each jumper wore a dark uniform — the U.S., black — and a numbered band tied around the leg for quick identification. The huge all-grass airfield at Dvorniky, which serves as the principal Czech jumping center, was an ideal drop zone.

Four Czech judges, each with three assistants and each armed with a telescope, a mounted telescope with a mirrored right-angle eye piece for easy action following, stood ready at their posts, approximately 100 feet apart to insure independent judgments in some of the finely determined point makers of later events.

Event One was a jump and pull precision landing contest from 1,000 meters (3,280 feet). The U.S. teams, the first to jump, got off to an impressive start with delegation chief Istel making the first landing of the contest at 5.66 meters off the center of the target, about 17½ feet. The quality of the competition was evident in the fact that nine out of the starting 57 jumpers bettered his mark, with Berisev Sarkov of Bulgaria landing eight inches from point zero.

Most of the team's jumps ran between 60 and 130 feet off. The maximum score for each jump in Event One was 150, with one point subtracted

*(Continued on page 14)*



**U.S. Team poses before Russian AN-2 jump plane at Dvorniky Airfield. Left to right, Smith (alternate), Pond, Sanborn, Istel, Pearson, Tomkins and Byard (alternate).**

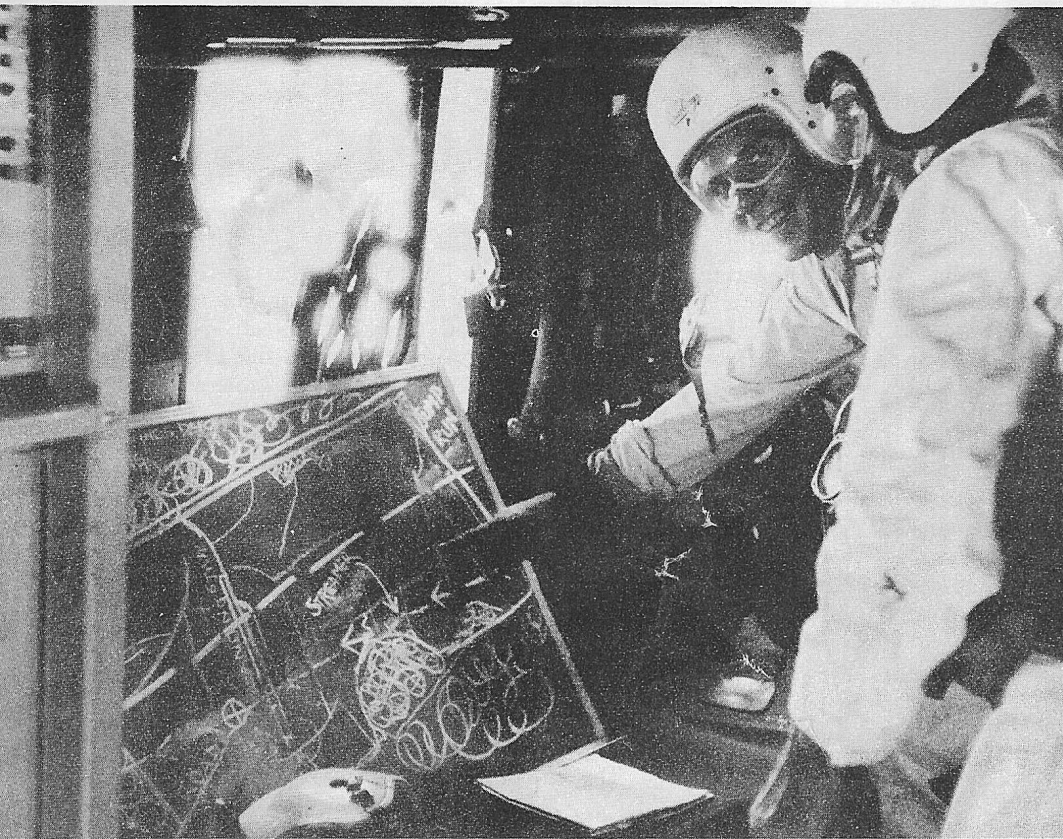
again proved to be stronger. The Americans had come a long way in two years, but so, it seemed, had everyone else. All, that is, but the French. The U.S. team could derive a little ironic satisfaction from the fact that it outdid the country which provided the basic instruction for modern-day sport parachuting at home. With this victory it qualified as the top team in the Western world.

On Friday and Saturday after their arrival, the team members were able to make practice jumps from the Rus-

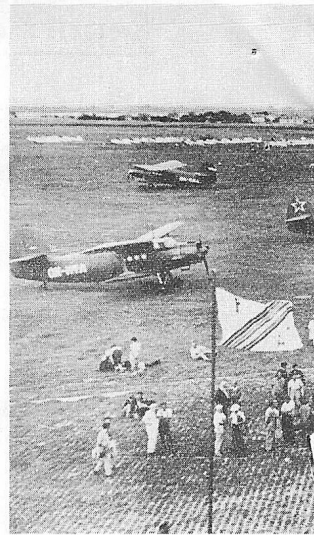
Club; Jim Pearson of the Seattle Skydivers; and alternates, Dana Smith, 23, of the Goodhill Parachute Club, and SFC Danny Byard of the 77th Special Forces Sports Parachute Club.

PCA President Joe Crane, who travelled with the team, was on hand to serve as president of the championship jury. He headed the dispute-governing body in his capacity as president of the FAI's international parachuting commission. Crane stayed with M. Gillman, director general of the FAI, at the Carlton Hotel in Bratislava (the

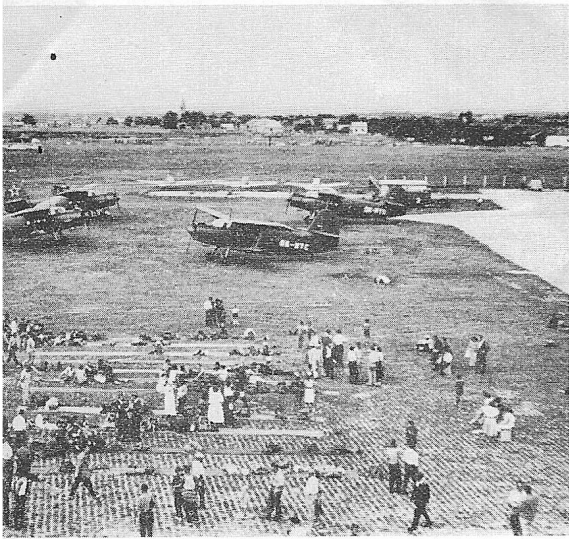




**Team members plot jump aboard Air Force C-123 during training at Fort Bragg. Below, other members undergo Air Force interview beneath the tail of the jump plane.**



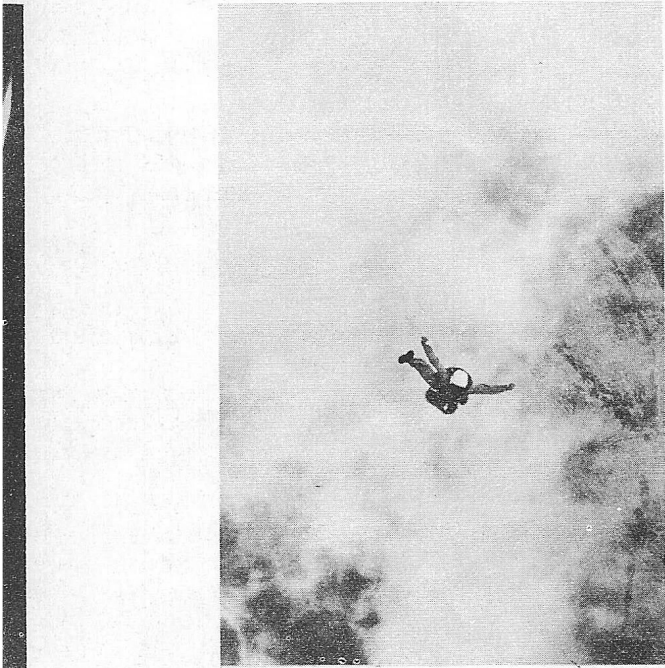




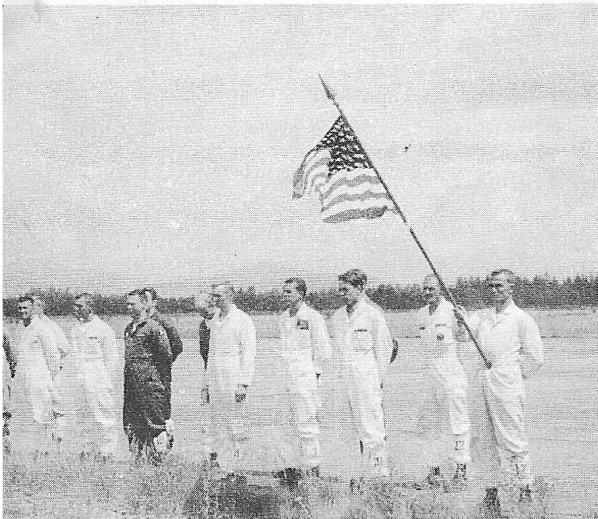
vorniky Airport, site of parachuting championship.



Team captain Sanborn exchanges championship pennant with Yugoslav counterpart. Below, assistant meet judge, Czech style, looks skyward in special telemeter, used for style events.



S. Team tryout candidates in BC Centennial parade.



# 1958 UNITED STATES PARACHUTING TEAM TRYOUT SCORES

(Individual scores for each event are given beneath total for phase.)

NAME	PHASE I	PHASE II	PHASE III	TOTAL
Istel	1045.4 29.0/466.4/550	1157.4 127.0/440.4/590	1269.4 230.6/489.4/550	3472.2
Sanborn	881.6 151.8/489.8/240	1143.0 189.6/403.4/550	1308.6 253.6/560.0/495	3333.2
Pearson	790.8 239.4/301.4/250	1212.2 277.0/385.2/550	911.8 218.4/418.4/275	2914.8
Tomkins	1017.8 205.8/432.0/380	1123.4 168.2/500.2/455	751.0 119.0/482.0/150	2892.2
Pond, N.	692.2 245.8/446.4/0	890.8 150.6/490.2/250	1215.4 214.6/540.8/460	2798.4
Smith	916.6 205.0/531.6/180	731.2 41.4/439.8/250	1021.2 236.0/535.2/250	2669.0
Byard	779.0 179.6/364.4/235	893.2 98.2/415.0/380	897.2 131.2/416.0/350	2569.4
Flinn	765.4 263.0/362.4/140	769.4 196.6/192.8/380	895.4 29.0/495.4/335	2394.2
Pond, L.	554.6 139.6/415.0/0	861.8 191.0/380.8/290	889.6 92.4/367.2/430	2306.0
Rose	743.8 175.4/478.4/90	798.0 95.0/323.0/380	673.0 67.0/376.0/230	2214.8
Hillard	1078.6 283.6/415.0/380	824.6 262.0/107.6/455		1903.2
Snyder	898.6 151.8/336.8/410	361.8 81.0/280.8/0		1260.4
Rourke	547.6 135.4/412.2/0	627.4 135.4/262.0/230		1175.0
Miller	533.0 232.6/300.4/0	369.8 133.0/236.8/0		902.8
English	667.2 211.8/455.4/0	132.2 132.2/ 0.0/0		799.4
Sinclair	439.4 99.8/339.6/0			439.4
Harrell	393.2 128.0/215.2/50			393.2
McDonnell	331.2 98.4/232.8/0			331.2
Shepard	289.6 110.0/179.6/0			289.6
Huebner	266.4 121.4/145.0/0			266.4
Kovach	237.4 0.0/237.4/0			237.4



# Tryouts and Training

**Twenty-one parachutists compete for U.S. team berths. The seven high scorers continue jumping at Fort Bragg, in intensive training for the World Championship.**

The aim of the tryouts for the 1958 U.S. Parachuting Team, which would represent the country against the top parachutists of the world, was to see that the best five jumpers won. With 270 competitive jumps among 21 candidates and a total reckoning based on 18 jumps apiece among the finalists, there were few if any contestants who went away feeling that this goal had not been achieved.

The highest concentration of civilian parachuting probably ever seen on this continent was held at Abbotsford, British Columbia, from June 15th to 21st. The staging of an official American contest on Canadian soil was a practical, if unusual, arrangement in which the Parachute Club of America was provided with an excellent site plus token travel allowances and living expenses for its competing members, and the British Columbia Centennial committee gained a colorful addition to its 100th anniversary celebrations.

The pace of the tryouts was strenuous. Most jumpers averaged three jumps a day and some made five or six. (Incidental practice and demonstration jumps equalled the number of official jumps bringing the total to some 540.) On top of this, British Columbia was undergoing one of its hottest summers in 100 years. A few jumpers actually collapsed from the heat and the pace, and midway through the contest, a day of rest was called.

Abbotsford Airport, a mile-square grass strip on the outskirts of Vancouver, was the drop zone. Three Cessnas, a 180 and two 182's, took the jumpers aloft. PCA President Joe Crane, French parachute instructor Gerard Vandermeersch and Lou Vinson, retired Navy test jumper, were the judges. Six packing tables were set up on the ground for the rapid and frequent repacking required.

Most of the candidates arrived at Abbotsford on Saturday, June 14th. The first of the three elimination phases began Sunday. Because a smaller number of candidates were on hand than the original elimination rules envisioned, these rules were modified so that all three phases were identical: each had the same three events with two jumps per event. The first two events in each phase followed the rules

for the first two disciplines of the World Championship: Event One, a straight spot jump from 1,000 meters; Event Two, a 15 to 23-second free fall from 1,500 meters with score for style and landing.

The third event, originally intended to parallel the third discipline of the world meet, was modified when artillery telemeters lent for the occasion by the commanding officer of Fort Lewis, Washington, proved inadequate to quick action following of free fall jumpers without experienced operators. The altitude of this event was lowered and the length of fall shortened so that the judges could follow it easily with binoculars. It was finally set up with the jumper leaving the aircraft at 5,500 feet, falling on an axis for five seconds, and then performing one left, two right and one left turns, between the 5th and 23rd seconds of free fall. Overshooting by up to 90 degrees was permitted, but all points were lost for undershooting. Scoring was determined on the time used in making the turns within the 18 second period, ranging from a minimum of 50 for 17 seconds to 250 for 12 seconds, with 25 extra points for each second under 12. The maximum possible bonus was 50 points.

Event One, Phase One, got under way with some excellent spot jumping by Charles Hillard of Georgia Tech. The 20-year-old engineering student totalled 283.6 points out of a possible 300 for his two jumps, an average landing of 8.2 yards of center. The spot jumping as a whole was far from championship standards however, with little more than a third of the jumpers averaging 50 yards from the spot. The second event of Phase One saw Dana Smith, a member of the Goodhill Farm Parachute Club, top the field with 531.6 out of a possible 600 points, but again in this stage of the tryouts most of the jumpers seemed to be still warming up and none but Smith's total could be called outstanding.

Event Three proved the downfall of many jumpers, only 11 of whom managed to score at all in the first phase. Jacques Istel, not surprisingly, led the contestants in this sky diving contest, outscoring the nearest contender, Steve Snyder of Georgia Tech, by 140 points.

At the end of the first phase, Hillard,

Istel and Dick Tomkins, a recent Harvard University graduate, were the top three in that order. Seven of the lowest scorers were dropped from the competition as it entered the second phase, with 14 contenders.

Again the spot jumping, in Event One of Phase Two, was weak, with only Jim Pearson of the Seattle Skydivers and Hillard managing to score in the 200's. Hillard made one of the best jumps of the tryouts in this event, landing 3.8 yards from center on his second leap. In Event Two, Smith made the best single performance, but Tomkins' two jumps gave him a respectable first place. Istel again led in Event Three. He was closely followed by Pearson and Lew Sanborn, who tied for second.

At the end of the second phase, Hillard, suffering from shoulder dislocation, dropped to fifth place and reluctantly quit the competition. Istel was first, followed by Tomkins and Sanborn. The bottom four candidates were eliminated at this stage and the remaining ten moved on to the third and final phase of the tryouts.

The first event in Phase Three was the undoing of several of the finalists, who were competing now to cut their number in half. George Flinn of Yale, Stewart Rose of Amherst and Larry Pond of Williams virtually put themselves out of the running by each failing to come within scoring range on one of his two spot jumps. Sanborn, Smith and Istel were the high scorers.

In Event Two, Sanborn, Nathan Pond and Istel topped the field. Going into the final event of the tryouts, the top seven were Istel, Sanborn, Tomkins, Pearson, Smith, Nathan Pond, Danny Byard of the 77th Special Forces. The critical contest at this stage was between Smith and Pond for the fifth team place. The top four were fairly confident of berths as long as they maintained minimum scores in the final event. There was 200 points between Pearson and Smith. But Smith's margin over Pond was only 120.

In the first jumps of the final event, Smith, Pearson and Tomkins received no score. Nathan Pond's 230 points moved him to fifth place. Istel, Sanborn and the Pond brothers were the high scorers in this jump. In the second jumps, the last of the tryouts, Istel and Pearson tied with 275 apiece, and though Smith placed third, he could only pick up 20 points on Pond. The 1958 U.S. Parachuting Team — the top five out of most of the top parachutists in the country — was Istel, Sanborn, Pearson, Tomkins and Pond. Smith

*(Continued on page 15)*





A report of free falls of **"more than 99 seconds"** by U.S. Team members is supported by the picture above which shows a team member wearing high-altitude oxygen equipment. The sky dives—the longest attributed to U.S. sport parachutists—were made during training at Fort Bragg this summer. Each jumper took several heavy gulps of oxygen before plunging out in the thin air, at an estimated 20,000-foot jump altitude.

## WHO'S NEW

Latest additions to the list of sport parachute clubs include both military and civilian groups. Addresses and individuals to contact are as follows: Bob Gilbert, *Fort Worth P.C.*, 2600 Whitmore, Fort Worth, Texas; Henry Gabaldon, *Albuquerque P.C.*, 346 Bethel, S.E., Albuquerque, N.M.; Peter K. Jones, *Laramie P.C.*, 243 North C. St., Buffalo, Wyoming; Roy A. Berry, *Mile-Hi Skydiver*, 3392 Niagara, Denver, Col.; G. G. Monteath, *California P.C.*, 1525 167th Ave., San Leandro, Calif.; Elsworth Getchell, *Medford P.C.*, 23 Adams St., Belmont 78, Mass.; Cletus Dixon, *Hanau Military Group P.C.*, 36th Trans. Co. (Lt. Hcptr.), APO 165, New York, N.Y.; Capt. Phillip C. Miller, *Schweinfurt Sport P.C.*, Hq. & Hq. Co., 3rd Med. Tank Bn., 37th Aror, APO 36, New York, N.Y.; and Lt. James M. Perry, *XVIII Airborne Corps Sport P.C.*, Corps Hqs., Fort Bragg, N.C.

# WHAT'S UP?

## HOT CONTEST

The 1958 Southwestern Parachuting Championship, held this August at Belen, New Mexico, was probably the hottest parachuting contest ever undergone in the U.S. Contestants from six states participated and saw the thermometer reach a blistering 118 degrees. The contest's two events were a spot jump from 2,300 feet and a 20-second sky dive and spot jump from 6,000. Jim Eaton of the Nevada Skydivers walked away with the top prize in both events while earning Nevada the team prize. The Albuquerque and Los Alamos clubs and the Belen CAP sponsored the meet.

## LIVE PERFORMANCE

Steve Snyder and Charles Hillard, credited with the first baton pass in the U.S. (see page 5), set another precedent this summer in what is believed to have been the first televised free fall. Shot "live" by WCAU-TV in Philadelphia this September, they jumped over a city golf course from 1,000 feet. They used 40 pounds of flour to mark a dramatic path through a clear blue sky—but there was one catch. The young sky divers came down almost directly over the tv cameras set up on the roof of the television studio. At the last moment, the broadcasters realized the cameras could not shoot straight up. So Philadelphia viewers caught only the tail end of the performance.

Miss Peggy Polke, a student at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, became America's first FAI-licensed female this July when she completed her tenth jump for an "A" certificate. She narrowly beat out Miss June O'Leary of the Kentucky Parachute Association who received her "A" three weeks later. Pictured below is a special newcomer to the ranks of gentle jumpers, **Miss "Flip" Sink**, 21-year-old daughter of Major Gen. Robert F. Sink, commanding general, 18th Airborne Corps. She made her first jump in June during U.S. Team training.





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Performance" read 12,000 for 1,000.

# Americans in Paris and Pau

## U.S. jumpers bow to and then defeat French parachutists in two contests

This summer, two United States parachute teams, other than the one which represented America in the World Championship, competed in Europe. In two contests in France, they proved American jumpers the equal, and very possibly the better, of veteran French parachutists.

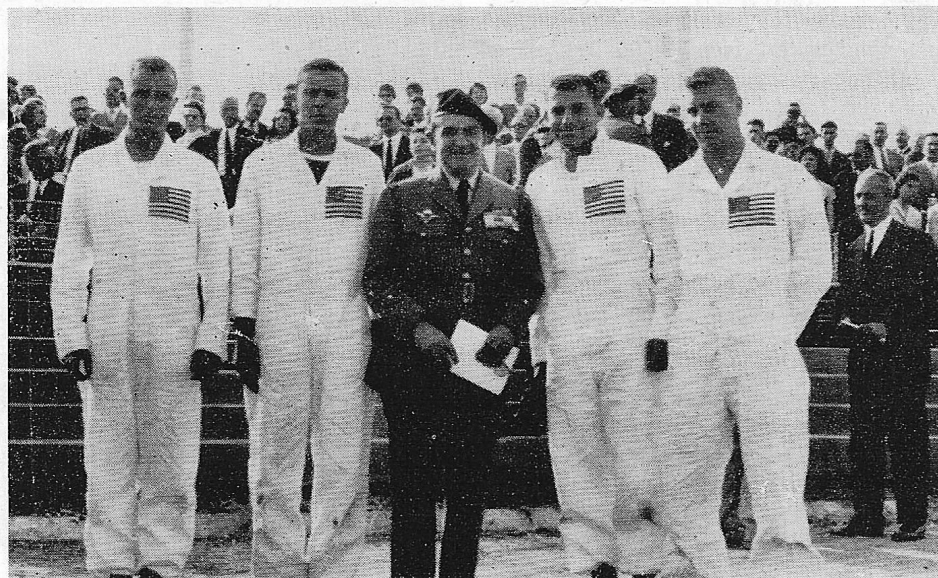
In the first contest, staged on June 29th at Le Bourget, the main French airport near Paris, a team made up of Jacques Istel, Lew Sanborn, Dana Smith and Charles Hillard, won one of the main trophies—for the second-place nation. In so doing, they beat all but two French teams, one military and one civilian.

In the second contest, on September 7th at the French paratrooper training center in the town of Pau, Istel, San-

The meet consisted of two jumps for each team, with a 10-second free fall from 3,500 feet. The winning French military team averaged 11½ feet in its landings. The scoring was based on landing alone.

The September contest, which three members of the U.S. World Championship team stopped for on the return trip from Czechoslovakia, saw the American parachutists take second, fourth and fifth places among 12 jumpers. Each team made two jumps from 2,800 feet, maximum altitude because of weather. Scoring was for landing only, with 150 possible for each jump.

Tomkins, the leading American, scored less than 2 points behind first place Knecht of the French paratrooper school. He earned a total of 289.05



**American Coupe du Monde team poses with General Gille, commander of French paratrooper forces. Team members are (l-r) Sanborn, Hillard, Istel and Smith.**

born and Dick Tomkins decisively downed three French paratrooper teams, including three members of the one that had won the earlier meet.

The June 29th meet was officially titled the "Coupe du Monde." Nine teams participated in the contest, sponsored by the FNPR, the national French parachuting association. Besides the two French teams and the U.S., groups were on hand from Israel, Spain, England, Austria and West Germany. An international team composed of Belgian, Swiss, and Italian jumpers also participated.

points out of a possible 300, an average landing of less than six yards from the center of the cross. Sanborn's score was 267.4, Istel's, 241.6. The U.S. team total of 789.05 was nearly 80 points higher than the second place French team.

On his return to this country, Istel expressed appreciation for the French treatment of American parachutists. He said he hoped the PCA could arrange for the participation of a French team in an American contest in the near future.

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP** (continued)  
for each meter from center. In every event the two jumps of the highest three team members were totalled for the team score.

Hungary surprised everyone by taking the first event with 852.8 points out of a possible 900. Its top three members kept within 42 feet of the cross's center in their six scoring tries. Kirial Vodenicarov of Bulgaria, high scorer in the event, averaged 14½ feet on his two jumps. In the women's field (there were seven women's teams, all from Eastern Europe except France) Alla Skopinova of the winning Russian team did better than all the male participants except Vodenicarov, averaging less than 16 feet in two jumps. The French proved weak in this event, scoring two places behind America's seventh. Some observers attributed this, and France's weak overall showing, to their continued reliance on emergency-type parachutes in competition with the specially designed sport models used by nearly every other country. (The U.S. used specially colored red, white and blue open gore sport chutes.)

On Tuesday it was Event Three, a sky diving contest from 2,500 meters. (Event Two was scheduled last.) Each jumper was to stabilize within five seconds after leaving the airplane, and perform certain maneuvers in a 35 to 43 second free fall. A visual signal on the ground, displayed on the tenth second of fall, determined which of three combinations of six 360-degree left and right turns the jumper was to perform. The jumpers were docked points for lack of stability and over and under-shooting on the turns. Speed was rewarded by a five-point-per-second bonus for completion of the turns before the 35th second of freefall. A jumper could substitute a 360-degree backwards somersault for his last two turns.

Istel topped the American members with full points for style and turns on both jumps and bonus points of 30 and 35, for a total of 665. Koubeck Gustav of the high-scoring Czech team managed to shave a total of 27 seconds of his two-jump margins, taking full advantage of the somersault provision, as did his fellow team members. The French, who had developed the controlled free fall techniques, were unable to place better than sixth, one slot ahead of the U.S. team.

Well ahead of schedule, the champions went into Event Four on Wednesday, but bogged down under threatening wind conditions. Event Four, a team jump from 1,500 meters with a 15 to 23-second delay (not scored), was not completed until Saturday after

bad weather closed in for two days.

The U.S. team placed sixth in this event. In the first jump, they averaged 35.54 meters (116.59 feet) off center, a bad show in any league. They cut that mark in half in the second jump, averaging 14.75 meters (48.39 feet). Tomkins, Sanborn and Pearson registered the top three scores for a team total of 784.86 points. Russia placed first with 885.19 points for a top-three landing average of 35.48 feet. Jurij Peklin did his share in this average with the best spot landing of the meet, .07 me-



ters, on his second jump. This translates to two and three-quarter inches short of perfection.

Event Two, the final contest, took place on Sunday before a crowd of 125,000 enthusiastic spectators. The Czechs and Russians, battling for first place, were only 58 points apart going into this decisive contest. The U.S. team stood in fifth place, with only a 16-point margin over sixth place Yugoslavia. Combining score for both style of fall in a 15 to 23-second delay and precision landing, Event Two accounted for nearly a third of the final meet total in terms of the amount of points which could be won. Competition was at its most intense.

Each jump was worth 300 points, 150 for style and 150 for landing. The Russians jumped first. Their style was perfect as they fell to the opening point and then, as they landed within minutes of each other, it looked like the contest might be over — 3.4 meters, 3.91 meters, 6.34 meters, 7.88 meters, 10.1 meters. It was. The Russians were first with 1,777.54 out of a possible 1,800. Though only 46 points lower, the Czechs were only fourth in this event. The U.S. team did well on free fall style, averaging 145 points for all its jumps. But in spite of the fact that Pearson made the best American spot landing of the championships in

this event — 14½ inches — the team's landings were generally weak, holding it to eighth place. All hope for an advance on its 1956 standing was lost when the Yugoslav team pulled a surprising second place, only 12 points behind the Russians.

Prizes were awarded that afternoon. The Russian team stepped forward to take the first place trophy, regaining it from the Czechs who had narrowly displaced them in 1956. The defenders, who had won the Third World Championships on the strength of their spot jumping, were outscored this time by Russia in all but Event Three, the only one in which there was no score for landing. The major gain in the competition was made by Poland who placed seventh in 1956 and this year took France's fourth place. Bulgaria held steady at third as did Yugoslavia at fifth, the U.S. at sixth and Hungary at ninth. Rumania moved from eighth to seventh leaving its lower berth for France. Austria, Great Britain and Israel finished out the tail end. The women's teams placed as follows: Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and France.

The American team was hosted at the meet by a chocolate company and a bakery. Joe Crane, who had a chauffeured car and interpreter constantly at hand, said the Czechs were warmly hospitable. "All jumpers got along like brothers and sisters." Reporting that the few disputes that arose were ironed out with undue difficulty, Crane paraphrased President Eisenhower's talk before FAI delegates this spring in an overall comment on the meet: "It'd be a wonderful world if governments got along like people."

## PARACHUTIST

July-October, 1958 Vol. 1, No. 6

COVER — Steve Snyder follows Charles Hillard down in early part of free fall for baton pass attempt. The two Georgia Tech students were the first in this country to succeed in the advanced sky diving feat, this July at Fort Bragg, N.C. (See page 4 for story.)

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### TRYOUTS (continued)

and Byard were named alternates by virtue of their sixth and seventh places, respectively.

The team tryouts were over on June 21st. From Vancouver, most of the candidates returned to their homes. But the seven high scorers had less than three weeks before they were on the road again, heading for Fort Bragg, North Carolina, headquarters of the country's military parachutists. Because of the Army's recent interest in the sport, it generously placed the facilities of the paratrooper center at the team's disposal.

The five team members, two alternates, and a few sport parachutists who were able to take the time off, started jumping over Fort Bragg's broad drop zones on July 7th. A training pattern was quickly set. The first jump of the day was usually from an Air Force C-123, the standard paratrooper jump plane. Thereafter, the team used an L-20 "Beaver," an Army reconnaissance plane which could land and take off on the drop zones, eliminating travel to the Air Force strip.

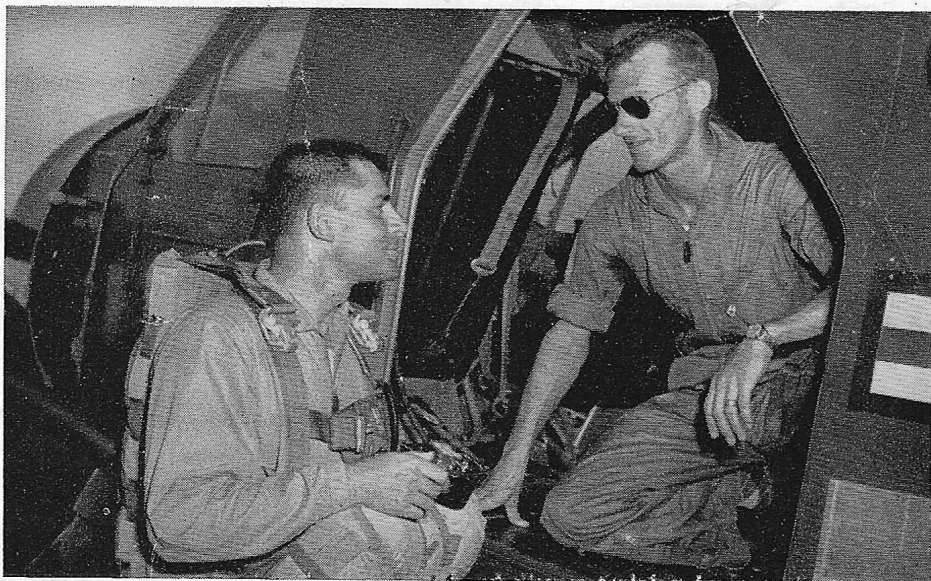
The team had an unused barracks to bunk in and ate in the regular mess halls. The post's officer and NCO clubs were open to the team members for after-training recreation. For jumping, the team used any drop zone not being used for paratrooper training at the time. The Army also provided a waiting ambulance (never used) and several enlisted men to help out on the target. These benefits, a far cry from the meager training facilities which the 1956 team was able to beg or borrow, came principally through the good graces of Major Gen. Robert F. Sink,

commanding general, 18th Airborne Corps, which is based at Bragg.

The major emphasis in training was on sky diving maneuvers required in Event Three of the World Championship. Practice for this amounted generally to runthrough after runthrough of the event itself. Working with enlisted helpers, Steve Snyder, Charles Hillard and Bob McDonnall handled the signal system on the ground which told each jumper what combination of turns to make. Then, through Army binoculars, they, and team members who had already landed, would evaluate the style and speed of those coming down. First Lt. Ruby Lee Whitehead, who went with the team to Czechoslovakia, piloted most of the L-20 runs.

Most of the jumps were without incident, though Dana Smith probably won't forget the 40 to 50 mile-per-hour gust that came up all of a sudden near ground level as he was preparing to hit down. It took him half a mile off course and it is believed that if his rig hadn't been equipped with quick releases which allowed him to detach his canopy, he would have been seriously injured. As it was, he was just shook up. Jim Perry, a top professional parachutist who put on a paratrooper first lieutenant's uniform last year, suffered the only other mishap of the training. He has just recovered from a broken coccyx he received when the came down on a tree stump during one of the practice runs which he went along on.

With approximately 25 jumps apiece in less than three weeks (two and a half times the number which the 1956 team was able to get in), the team left Fort Bragg on July 27th and a few days later was putting its training into practice in Czechoslovakia.



Team coach Istel (left) and pilot Whitehead discuss training jump at Fort Bragg

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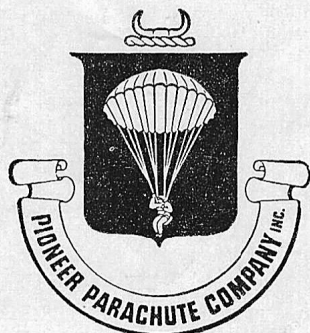
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